

East Woodland

This woodland character area partially encircles the eastern lower field area along the eastern property line, see Figure 4-4. The size of this woodland area is two acres.

Landscape description

This area is a relatively thin woodland corridor wrapping around the eastern edge of the property. It is surrounded on the west by the open field and on the east by neighboring properties that are predominantly maintained as lawn. The woodland area functions as a natural bottomland and receives the runoff that drains from the large field. A natural spring was dammed to create the pond in the southeast corner, see Figure 4-5. The species composition within this area is a mixture of ornamental and native plants. Most of the plants along the edge of this area are covered in grapevine. The major tree species include red oaks, tulip poplar, red maple, redbud, dogwoods, and a few shortleaf pines. The following trees were either planted or seeded in from outside sources: Norway maple, mimosa, fir, and Chinese chestnut. Bush honeysuckle, grapevine, and multiflora rose can be found throughout. Along the edge of the northeast corner, a group of various plants appear to have been planted; they include yew, hemlock, holly, yucca, and a row of burning bush. A specimen, Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*), is also located in this area along the edge of the woodland. The Kentucky coffeetree is native to the Midwest, but had been cultivated and naturalized eastward; this tree is scattered throughout the entire property. A large portion of the north central area is maintained by mowing, creating an open understory with the canopy of medium to large trees overhead. This area is very conducive for microstegium growth. Large debris piles are located to the east along the property line, see Figure 4-6. Hardwood trees and understory plants, including ferns, occupy the southeast corner around the pond. Some trees have been planted in this area, especially along the southern property line. Dogwood and redbud are found along the edge as the woodland narrows.

Condition

The overall condition of this area is **fair**. Several trees appear to be in decline due to wounds, pest infestation, or disease. Dead and fallen trees were also observed and are noted in the resource inventory database. The extensive coverage of grapevine is stunting the growth of some plants and shading out others completely. Vertical layering is low especially in the area being actively maintained because microstegium shades out other herbaceous plants. In addition, the expanse of grapevine shades out other groundcovers and shrubs. Bush honeysuckle is also abundant throughout this area. Opportunity for exotic invasive species infestation in this area is high as its proximity to other residences increases the chances of exotics seeding into the area.

Landscape Management Recommendations

- The removal of invasive plants would improve overall native species composition and diversity of this stand. See Treatment Recommendations for Invasive Plant Species at the end of this chapter.
- As with the north woodland area, a certified arborist or forester should carefully inspect the entire area to further assess condition and management issues. A further

investigation of trees near structures and the woodland edge should be conducted to identify those trees in poor condition that would cause damage if they were to fall. Hazardous branches should be selectively pruned and debris removed. Tree removal should be considered within the context of this property's overall management plan as dead trees and branches provide wildlife habitat and are relatively rare in a predominantly suburban landscape. Leaving dead trees and branches to decompose naturally within the woodland area, or grinding and returning plant material to the site, should also be considered as long as these practices do not detract from the aesthetic qualities of the gardens.

- The expanse of grapevine should be removed in order to create a more diverse edge and improve the condition of those plants currently being smothered. Both mechanical and chemical measures are successful in removing grapevine. Care should be taken to not harm desired plants. See Treatment Recommendations for Aggressive Native Plants at the end of this chapter for more information.
- Regular observation and ongoing maintenance may be necessary to sustain healthy plants, native species composition, and overall species diversity in this area.



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-4: View along northern edge of the east woodland.
789



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-5: View of pond.
620



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-6: View of debris piles along eastern property line.
783

West Woodland

This character area includes the woodland area south of the drive along the western property boundary, see Figure 4-7. The size of this woodland area is approximately one acre.

Landscape description

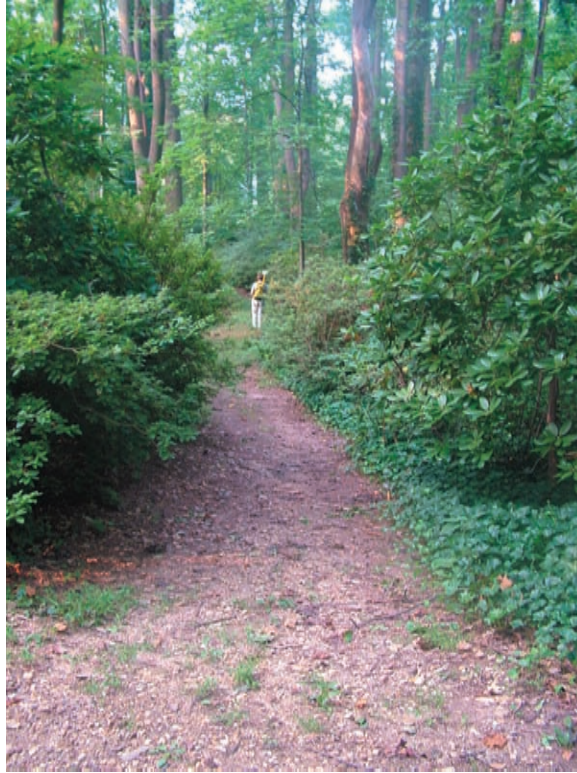
The stand composition of this woodland area is very similar to that of the North Woodland. The major canopy species include tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), red oak (*Quercus* spp.), and hickory (*Carya* spp.). The northern portion of this area has a heavy concentration of the following invasive exotic plants: privet, multiflora rose, English ivy, and bush honeysuckle. This dense understory makes the area difficult to access. Many trees have English ivy growing up their trunks and in some cases trees are heavily infested, see Figure 4-8. The presence of exotics decreases in the southern portion of the area and more native shrubs were observed. Several very large poplar trees can be found in this area. Large piles of yard debris, mainly branches, surround a small clearing.

Condition

The overall condition of this area can be considered **fair** due to the abundance of exotic invasive species. The condition could easily become poor if the invasive plants are not properly managed. Overall, plants are in good condition as most trees observed appear to be free of wounds, pest infestation, and disease; overall vigor is high; and plant growth and form appears normal. However, the present infestation of exotic invasive plants warrants a fair condition assessment in order to address expected decline of plant vigor and to emphasize the level of management needed to address the situation.

Landscape Management Recommendations

- The removal of invasive plants would improve overall native species composition and diversity of this stand. The intense concentration of English ivy, privet, and bush honeysuckle within this area poses the largest management issue. See Treatment Recommendations for Invasive Plant Species at the end of this chapter.
- As with other woodlands, a certified arborist or forester should carefully inspect the entire area to further assess condition and management issues. A further investigation of trees near structures, trails, and the woodland edge should be conducted to identify those trees in poor condition that would cause damage if they were to fall. Hazardous branches should be selectively pruned and debris removed. Tree removal should be considered within the context of this property's overall management plan as dead trees and branches provide wildlife habitat and are relatively rare in a predominantly suburban landscape. Leaving dead trees and branches to decompose naturally within the woodland area, or grinding and returning plant material to the site, should also be considered as long as these practices do not detract from the aesthetic qualities of the gardens.



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-7: View of west woodland from woodland trail. 752



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-8: English ivy growing on tree trunks. 718

Upper Garden

This character area is 1.6 acres in size and includes the defined garden beds and shrub massings north of the drive that partially encircle the White residence. Mrs. White and others associated with the property refer to the garden area directly north of the residence as the “tennis court” because it is the former location of a clay tennis court. This area creates a unique space as several paths converge to meet in an open lawn area defined by the surrounding undulating garden beds, see Figure 4-9.

Landscape description

This character area largely consists of shrub massings that define island beds surrounded by lawn or areas that blend into the woodland edge. Winding grass paths meander through this area further defining the beds. A vein of quartz has surfaced in the bedrock beneath the property and crosses the path along the woodland edge. A large variety of azalea and rhododendron species make up the dominant shrub component of these beds, see Figure 4-10. Secondary shrubs consist of camellia, pieris, leucothoe, fothergilla, bush honeysuckle, and lindera. An assortment of groundcovers and vines can be found throughout the beds and include, but are not limited to microstegium, English ivy, vinca, Virginia creeper, wisteria, smilax, and pachysandra. In some cases, vines are growing on shrubs. Daylilies and spiderwort were also observed in some beds. In some cases, logs or loose stone define bed edges, whereas others are simply defined by the plantings. Trees are also located within these beds, with tulip poplar, red oak, and hickory being the most common. Other trees include American holly, Kentucky coffeetree, and spruce. Leaf litter forms the mulch layer of most beds and fallen branches and twigs are also present.

Condition

The overall condition of this area can be considered **good**. As a whole, the plants observed in this area appear to be free of wounds, pest infestation, and disease; overall vigor is high; and plant growth and form appears normal. Of all the shrubs in this area, only a small portion exhibit signs of stress or decline and only a handful were observed to be in such decline that they should be removed. The shrub massings in the area termed the “tennis courts” appear to be actively maintained and in better condition than those in the southwest corner of the character area. Some of the shrubs in this lower area are thinning, slightly yellow, or are being shaded out by other plants. Vines like wisteria, smilax, and grapevine may eventually shade out or stunt the growth of shrubs if they are allowed to continue growing. Most of the trees in this area are also in good condition.

Landscape Management Recommendations

- Maintain mowing frequency in lawn areas and reestablish lawn where needed.
- Individual shrubs and trees identified in fair to poor condition should be further assessed to determine cause, and then treated accordingly. Refer to the Resource Inventory in Chapter Three for the condition assessment of each shrub, shrub massing, tree, or garden bed. Plants that have died or that cannot be recovered should be removed and replaced in kind.

- Invasive groundcovers like English ivy and microstegium pose a potential threat to the surrounding woodlands. Microstegium should be removed as it was not planted, but rather spread in from outside sources. English ivy was most likely planted, and if it is eventually determined desirable in the garden beds, it should be actively contained by routine maintenance. The other ornamental groundcovers in this area pose only a minor threat of woodland invasion, but should be regularly observed and maintained nonetheless. See Treatment Recommendations for Invasive Plant Species at the end of this chapter for more information.
- The entire character area should undergo a thorough cleanup and would benefit from routine maintenance. See Treatment Recommendations for Maintaining the Garden Areas at the end of this chapter for specific recommendations.
- The removal of invasive plants would prevent further spreading into natural areas. Bush honeysuckle and wisteria pose the most significant threat. See Treatment Recommendations for Invasive Plant Species at the end of this chapter.



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-9: View of upper garden, an area referred to as the “tennis courts.”
4/27 DSC00729



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-10: John C. White Rhododendron in bloom.
4/27 DSC00728

Lower Garden

This character area is 1.4 acres in size and includes the shrub massings and garden beds south of the drive between the woodland and domesticated area around the house, barn, and outbuildings.

Landscape description

This character area consists of numerous shrub massings and garden beds of various sizes that are defined by the meandering paths that wind through this area. The northern portion has a thick canopy cover creating very shady conditions. Located both in the lawn and within shrub massings, tulip poplar and hickory are the most common trees, see Figure 4-11. Dense stands of azaleas and clusters of rhododendron occupy many of the beds, especially in the northern portion of the area. Smaller shrub massings of camellia, pieris, lindera, euonymus, bush honeysuckle, and boxwood can also be found in this area. Linear shrub massings of azalea and rhododendron line the west woodland edge. An assortment of groundcovers and vines can be found throughout the beds and include (but are not limited to) microstegium, English ivy, vinca, Virginia creeper, wisteria, smilax, and pachysandra. Several areas have heavy concentrations of microstegium and English ivy, see Figure 4-12. The large bed parallel to the west woodland has the largest concentration of English ivy and many of the trees have ivy growing up their trunks, see Figures 4-8 and 4-13. A Japanese stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamellia*) was planted in the bed, as noted by Mrs. White (it was not inventoried because it fell below the 5" DBH criteria).⁴ Patches of herbaceous plantings occur in many of the beds. During a visit to the lower garden, Mrs. White identified the following plants: Jack in the pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*), and dragon arum (*Dracunculus vulgaris*). Mrs. White also mentioned dogtooth violets (*Erythronium* spp.), although none were observed by the inventory team.⁵ Logs or loose stone define some of the bed edges. Leaf litter forms the mulch layer of most beds and fallen branches and twigs are found in some beds.

There is very little canopy cover in the southern portion of the lower garden. A nursery area surrounds a large open lawn, see Figure 4-14. In the southeast corner, an area lined in black plastic is a holding area for container plants. This is largely overgrown with weeds and in some cases the pots are barely discernable, see figure 4-15. In addition, a collection of yew and blue spruce are planted in rows near the property line, see Figure 4-16. A tractor is also parked in this area.

Condition

The overall condition of this area can be considered **fair**. Various plants are in fair to poor condition because they show signs of stress and decline. Some shrubs are thinning, leaves are yellowing, or they are being shaded out by other plants. Though a majority of plants in the northern portion of this area are considered in good condition, overall plant health and bed

⁴ Margaret K. White, field observations, July 23, 2004.

⁵ Margaret K. White, field observations, July 22, 2004.

conditions decline towards the south. In the southern portion of the character area, azaleas in sunny areas are turning yellow and show signs of stress. There are numerous invasive plants throughout this area that will continue to spread into the western woodland area. Several beds contain bush honeysuckle and privet. Large concentrations of microstegium in many of the beds are out-competing the cultivated herbaceous plants. English ivy poses another threat, particularly in one bed where every tree trunk is covered. Other vines like wisteria, smilax, and grapevine may eventually shade out or stunt the growth of shrubs if they are allowed to continue growing on them. Most of the trees in this area are in good condition but those infested with ivy will decline if the ivy is left unchecked. The nursery is another area of concern as it is significantly overgrown.

Landscape Management Recommendations

- Maintain mowing frequency in lawn areas and reestablish lawn where needed.
- Individual shrubs and trees identified in fair to poor condition should be further assessed to determine cause and then treated accordingly. Refer to the Resource Inventory in Chapter Three for the condition assessment of each shrub, shrub massing, tree, or garden bed. Plants that have died or that cannot be recovered should be removed and replaced with appropriate plantings.
- As with the upper garden, invasive groundcovers like English ivy and microstegium pose a potential threat to the surrounding woodlands. Microstegium should be removed as it was not planted but rather spread in from outside sources. English ivy was most likely planted, and if it is eventually determined desirable in the garden beds, it should be actively contained by routine maintenance. The other ornamental groundcovers in this area pose only a minor threat of woodland invasion, but should be regularly observed and maintained nonetheless. See Treatment Recommendations for Invasive Plant Species at the end of this chapter for more information.
- The entire character area should undergo a thorough cleanup and would benefit from routine maintenance. See Treatment Recommendations for Maintaining the Garden Areas at the end of this chapter for specific recommendations.
- The removal of invasive plants would further prevent spread into natural areas. Bush honeysuckle and privet pose the most significant threat. See Treatment Recommendations for Invasive Plant Species at the end of this chapter.



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-11: View of garden area and trees in lawn.
4/27 DSC00741



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-12: Large concentration of microstegium in garden bed.
675



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-13: Garden bed exhibiting large concentration of English ivy infestation.
713



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-14: View of open area within the lower garden, tractor and blue spruces in the distance.
738



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-15: Overgrown nursery area.
759



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-16: Small nursery holding area behind blue spruces along the property line.
739

White Residence Surrounds

This character area is approximately one-half acre in size and includes the foundation plants around the White residence, the shrub massings near the house, and plantings within the circle drive. The drive and brick walks that are components of this area are described in the circulation features section found later in this chapter.

Landscape description

The White residence surrounds consist of mown lawn and various shrubs and trees planted near and around the house. A mixture of hardwood trees partially encircles the glass porch, see Figure 4-17. Boxwoods line the front of the house with one camellia near the east corner. A Kentucky coffeetree and large spruce flank the west corner at the greenhouse. A dense planting of arborvitae wraps the greenhouse, and pieris and rhododendron are planted along the rear of the house. In back of the house, a very large white oak is surrounded with a massing of azalea, see Figure 4-18. Adjacent, another oak is surrounded with a massing of rhododendron and azalea. Two small masses of gumpo azaleas dot this backyard area. In the front of the house, boxwoods punctuate the ends of walks and a large massing of boxwoods defines the east edge of the circle drive. A post oak, dogwood, and black walnut are also located within the median of the circle drive. A large willow oak is located on the outside edge of the drive and azaleas wrap around the trunk.

Condition

The overall condition of this area can be considered **fair**. Some plants in this area were observed to have wounds, pest infestation, or disease. For example, the pieris show signs of pest infestation, and some of the boxwoods have large dead sections. A rhododendron in the back has died, and the overall vigor of some plants is low. The plants around the western corner of the house have grown so close together that the arborvitae are thinning out and leaning out over walkways. Excluding those plants in decline, the remaining shrub masses are healthy and in good condition. Overall, the trees in this area are in good condition.

Landscape Management Issues

- Maintain mowing frequency in lawn areas and reestablish lawn where needed.
- Individual shrubs and trees identified in fair to poor condition should be further assessed to determine cause and then treated accordingly. Refer to the Resource Inventory in Chapter Three for the condition assessment of each shrub, shrub massing, tree, or garden bed. Plants that have died or that cannot be recovered should be removed and replaced in kind.
- Invasive species do not pose a significant threat in this area but should be regularly monitored. See Treatment Recommendations for Invasive Plant Species at the end of this chapter for more information.
- The trumpetvine growing on the Kentucky coffeetree should be further assessed to determine if the vine is damaging the tree and should be removed.

- All debris including fallen branches should be removed from bed and lawn areas. Trees and shrubs should be selectively pruned to remove hazardous or dead branches, especially any extending out into paths or on structures. Refer to Treatment Recommendations for Maintaining the Garden Areas for more information.
- Consider thinning or removing some of the arborvitae around the greenhouse to open access to the walkway and to allow adequate spacing for normal growth and form.
- The black walnut adjacent the circle drive is a very productive tree with large walnuts that fall from significant heights. This may prove disadvantageous if cars continue to park underneath it, and if people continue to gather here.



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-17: Mixture of hardwood trees around glass porch.
641



Source: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2004

Figure 4-18: A large white oak surrounded by azaleas in back of the White residence.
4/27 DSC00734